

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18193 041757Z

63

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 L-01 EB-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 OES-02 COA-01

RSC-01 DLOS-03 SP-02 /051 W
----- 078723

R 041541Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18193

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, NO

SUBJECT: SOVIET-NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON CONTENENTAL SHELF

1. NORWEGIAN DCM RONNENG HAS PROVIDED US WITH SUMMARY BRIEFING ON NORWEGIAN-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS ON BARENTS SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF DELIMITATION, WHICH WERE CONDUCTED IN MOSCOW NOVEMBER 25-29. IN SO DOING, HE STRESSED THAT INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT IS BEING VERY CLOSELY HELD WITHIN NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND REQUESTED THAT IT BE HANDLED WITH UTMOST DISCRETION WITHIN U.S. GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE IS CERTAIN THAT ELIASSEN, WHO WAS HEAD OF NORWEGIAN DELEGATION, WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED AND AUTHORITATIVE BRIEFING TO EMBASSY OSLO.

2. ACCORDING TO RONNENG, TALKS WERE CONDUCTED IN CORDIAL, BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE. SOVIET DELEGATION (HEADED BY P.N. YEVSEYEV OF THE MFA TREATY ANDLEGAL DEPARTMENT) APPROACHED ISSUES ON A TECHNICAL AND LEGAL BASIS AND REFRAINED FROM INTRODUCING POLITICAL ARGUMENTS. SOVIETS MADE NO CONCRETE PROPOSALS OF THEIR OWN; DISCUSSION CENTERED ON NORWEGIAN PROPOSALS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18193 041757Z

3. NORWEGIANS PROPOSED DELIMITATION BASED ON PRINCIPLE OF EQUIDISTANT MEDIAN LINE AS INCORPORATED IN 1958 CONVENTION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. SOVIETS DID NOT CHALLENGE APPLICABILITY OF THIS PRINCIPLE, BUT ARGUED FOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THEIR FAVOR ON TWO GROUNDS: (1) IRREGULAR CONFIGURATION OF SEACOASTS AFFECTING BASELINE CALCULATIONS; AND (2) "COASTAL FRONT" ARGUMENT SIMILAR TO THAT EMPLOYED UNSUCCESSFULLY BY FRG DURING NORTH SEA DELIMITATION NEGOTIATIONS WITH NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK. (RONNENG FELT THAT FIRST ARGUMENT INTRODUCED DEBATABLE CONSIDERATIONS BUT THAT SECOND IS UNTENABLE IN LIGHT OF 1969 WORLD COURT DECISION.) DISCUSSION OF NORWEGIAN PROPOSALS CONCENTRATED ON SOUTHERN PORTION OF SHELF; THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF NORWEGIAN PROPOSALS FOR DELIMITATION IN NORTHERN PORTION (E.E., BETWEEN SVALBARD ON ONE HAND AND NOVAYA ZEMLYA AND FRANZ JOSEF LAND ON OTHER). THERE WAS NO RPT NO DISCUSSION ON CONTINENTAL SHELF EXPLOITATION OR OF SVALBARD.

3. TALKS REACHED NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS AND DATE HAS NOT BEEN SET FOR NEXT ROUND. ACCORDING TO RONNENG, NORWEGIANS ANTICIPATE LEISURELY, CAREFUL NEGOTIATIONS AND IN DUE COURSE WILL PROPOSE DATE FOR SECOND ROUND IN OSLO. NORWEGIANS APPEAR TO BE PLEASED THAT SOVIETS HAVE NOT INTRODUCED BROAD POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND SEEM PREPARED TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS ON STRICTLY LEGAL BASIS.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINENTAL SHELF, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW18193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740352-0221
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741261/aaaacaje.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET-NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON CONTENENTAL SHELF
TAGS: PFOR, UR, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005